



CERTIFICATE of RECOGNITION

By virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution in the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia there is hereby officially recognized:

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Virginia is committed to ensuring the safety and security of all those living in and visiting our state; and

WHEREAS, fire is a serious public safety concern both locally and nationally, and homes are where people are at greatest risk to fire; and

WHEREAS, between 2006 and 2010 an average of 79 people died and 444 people were injured in the Commonwealth each year as a result of home fires; and

WHEREAS, a high percentage of home fire deaths in Virginia result from fires in which no smoke alarms or no *working* smoke alarms are present; and

WHEREAS, cooking equipment is the leading cause of home structure fires and associated injuries, and the third leading cause of home fire deaths; and

WHEREAS, heating and electrical equipment and smoking materials are among the leading causes of all reported home fires; and

WHEREAS, home candle fires are reported to a US fire department every 30 minutes, on average; and

WHEREAS, the risk of dying in a home structure fire caused by smoking materials rises with age; and

WHEREAS, working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in reported home fires in half; and

WHEREAS, automatic fire sprinkler systems cut the risk of dying in a home fire by about 80%; and

WHEREAS, residents who have planned and practiced a home fire escape plan are more prepared and will therefore be more likely to survive a fire; and

WHEREAS, the 2011 Fire Prevention Week theme, "*It's Fire Prevention Week. Protect your Family from Fire!*" effectively serves to remind us all of the simple actions we can take to keep our homes and families safe from fire during Fire Prevention Week and year-round;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Robert F. McDonnell, do hereby recognize October 9-15, 2011 as **FIRE PREVENTION WEEK** in our **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**, and I urge all citizens to protect their homes and families by heeding the potentially life-saving messages of Fire Prevention Week 2011, and to support the many activities and efforts of Virginia's fire and emergency services.




Governor


Secretary of the Commonwealth